



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **TWO MEXICAN POLICE OFFICERS CHARGED WITH BRIBING U.S. AGENT**

TUCSON, Arizona – The director of public safety for the Mexican city of Sonoyta and a Sonoyta police officer were named in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court here today charging them with bribing a federal law enforcement officer and drug violations.

Ramon Robles-Cota, 29, the director of public safety for Sonoyta, Mexico, and Sonoyta police officer Julio Cesar Lozano-Lopez, 28, are charged with bribing a public official and conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

The case against the two men stems from an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (DHS-OIG), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The criminal complaint alleges the two men traveled to Arizona several times to meet with a federal law enforcement officer and seek the U.S. agent's assistance to allow vehicles loaded with marijuana to cross the U.S.-Mexico border near Manager's Dam. According to the complaint, Robles-Cota said his organization would pay the U.S. officer \$25,000 for every vehicle he allowed to cross the border, offering the agent a \$100,000 advance for his cooperation.

"At its root, corruption begins with the belief that public servants can be bought," said U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton. "This case serves notice on those who hold that belief that we are watching and will vigorously prosecute them."

Kent Johansson, interim special-agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Arizona said that "this is a serious incident that underscores the importance of our focus on ensuring the integrity of our borders." Roland Mignone, assistant special agent-in-charge of the Phoenix FBI, added that "the FBI remains committed to working with our federal law enforcement partners to deter and detect public corruption, wherever it occurs."

A conviction for bribery carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for the drug charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$4 million fine or both.

# ICE #